

sure of themselves, and some imputation on their integrity and good faith. If I could for a moment look on this as a necessary result of the deletion of the report, I, and I am sure every other member, would cease to agitate for its deletion, as I have the pleasure of knowing most, and of sincerely respecting all, the members of that Committee. I believe they all sympathise with Dr. Imlach. I believe, further, that they have enough skill and diplomacy amongst them to initiate amongst themselves an honourable, dignified, and graceful way out of a difficulty that lies on the conscience of the profession; and one that the profession will not rest till it has purged itself of. May we not ask the Committee to make a friendly move in this direction?—I am, etc.,

Liverpool, Oct. 7th.

GEORGE A. HAWKINS-AMBLER.

SIR,—I have read with much interest your remarks and Dr. Taylor's letter in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL on Dr. Imlach's case; and I heartily endorse the sentiments expressed in both articles. Now that the question has been again fully discussed and considered, I venture to hope that those who signed the original report will voluntarily agree to its deletion—a course they can well take without loss of dignity.

The views of authorities have changed so much in recent years regarding the justifiability or otherwise of operations in gynaecology, that it seems to me impossible to dogmatise or even to condemn the practice of a well-qualified expert without the strongest possible evidence, and I cannot see that this has been produced in Dr. Imlach's case.—I am, etc.,

Weymouth, Oct. 7th.

MACPHERSON LAWRIE.

OLD STUDENTS' DINNERS.

SIR,—I recently undertook a railway journey of some hundreds of miles for the purpose of enjoying the society of old friends at an annual hospital dinner. It appeared, however, in the light of subsequent events, that certain gentlemen in authority who were present considered the occasion to be more favourable to an exercise of what they were doubtless pleased to consider their oratorical powers than to the pleasures of social intercourse. Conversation was almost a matter of impossibility. I would not venture to bring these remarks to notice if I were not aware that they admit of a fairly general application, and that the old student is apt to regard the inevitable presence of the postprandial orator as a sufficient reason for remaining absent from what should be one of the pleasantest of social functions.—I am, etc.,

October 10th.

OLD STUDENT.

OBITUARY.

R. STRAFFORD SMITH, M.D.,

Physician to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

THE intelligence of the death of Dr. Strafford Smith has caused the keenest regret, not only among the profession, but also among a large section of the public in the north of Ireland. About three to four weeks ago Dr. Smith suffered from a carbuncle. From this, however, he had recovered, and was congratulating himself on the prospect of a well-deserved holiday when, about September 24th, he was seized with a sharp pain in the course of the sciatic nerve. Symptoms of a general intense septicæmia set in, which chiefly manifested themselves in a low form of pneumonia and in spinal irritation, probably meningeal, but the whole system was evidently affected, and he sank rapidly, and died on the morning of October 5th.

Dr. Smith was the elder son of the late Dr. J. W. T. Smith (Belfast), one of its leading physicians, well known as an indefatigable worker and an acute clinician. He inherited many of his father's qualities; the excellent sense of humour, the gentle touch of irony, his marked enthusiasm, and what may be termed his delight in his professional work. He was 40 years old, and had studied medicine in Belfast, London, and Vienna. His connection with the old Royal Hospital, now the Royal Victoria Hospital, was lifelong. He was in succession Resident Pupil, House Physician, Assistant Physician, and in 1895 he became Visiting Physician in suc-

cession to the late Dr. Ross. Amongst the students he was a general favourite, and his sound practical clinical teaching was clear and precise, and of that quality which stands to the practitioner in after-life. At the time of his death he was also Consulting Physician to the Belfast Charitable Society, Honorary Physician to Nurses Home, the Lord Chancellor's Visitor in Lunacy, and the Honorary Secretary to the Medical and Surgical Staff of the Royal Victoria Hospital. He also enjoyed a large practice amongst the better class, and, like his father, he gained the warm friendship of his patients as well as their entire professional confidence. Apart from the many close and life-long personal friends who so deeply regret the loss, everyone must deplore the death of one who had just reached his zenith of usefulness, and will extend to his widow and child their deepest sympathy.

WE regret to learn that the family of Dr. A. E. LOVITT of the China Inland Mission have abandoned all hope that he has escaped the massacre at Tai Yuen-fu. The news has been received from Chinese sources but it is believed in Cheefoo and Shanghai. He was the son of Mr. J. Lovitt of Camden Road, N.W., and early developed a desire to engage in mission work. He first went to the Harley House Missionary Training College, and after a year there, on the advice of Dr. Harry Guinness, he determined to take the full medical course and entered at the London Hospital. He obtained the diploma of L.S.A. in 1895 and those of M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. Lond. in 1897. He was for a year Resident Medical Officer of the Mildmay Mission Hospital, Bethnal Green, and also worked with friends in Castleford and in Kent. He married the eldest daughter of Mr. Alexander Grant, a missionary of Singapore, who was trained as a nurse, and who along with her children are believed to have been killed by the Chinese. They went out to China in August, 1897, and commenced work at Tai-yuen-fu Hospital. The attitude of the people and their rulers was perfectly friendly until a new governor was appointed who was known to be a bitter enemy of foreigners. The hospital was attacked on June 27th; it was defended as long as possible by the mission party, but was eventually burned by the Chinese, who clubbed one of the members of the mission, Miss Coombs, and threw her body into the fire. The other members escaped to the residence of Mr. Farthing of the Baptist Missionary Society, and remained there until July 7th or 9th, when, under promise of safe escort to the coast they were enticed into the Governor's Yamen, and, it is believed, all murdered.

DR. ALEC STEVENSON of South Shields, who died in Glasgow at the early age of 31 years, on September 3rd, was a native of Dumbarton. After showing considerable ability as a school-boy, he spent a short time in a lawyer's office, but, having determined to devote himself to medicine, matriculated at the University of Glasgow. During his student's career he obtained first-class certificates in the classes of anatomy, physiology, materia medica, and pathology; and special certificates of merit for collections of specimens in practical physiology and in pathology. The drawings and descriptions he made in the latter subject were the envy and admiration of his fellow-students, and called forth high encomiums from the professor of pathology. He also gained first-class certificates in midwifery, clinical surgery, and medical jurisprudence, and worked hard to make himself a competent practitioner in all departments, including diseases of the eye, the skin, fever, and insanity. During his student career he found time to do a considerable amount of temperance and religious work in his native town. He graduated as M.B., C.M. Glasgow with commendation in 1895, and settled in South Shields as a partner to Dr. Drummond. He showed himself to be an earnest, skilful, and patient practitioner, and an honest and upright Christian man. He will be much missed by a large circle of professional and other friends, to whom he had endeared himself. He leaves a young widow and an infant to mourn his loss.

HAVING had evidence of a demand for such things the Council of the Sanitary Institute has made a collection of lantern slides (relating to sanitary arrangements and appliances, and to bacteriology) which can be borrowed by members and Associates for lecture purposes at a small charge.